



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/580,536	05/26/2000	Thomas W. McCaslin	BASLIP2013	9622

7590

05/14/2002

Robert J Ward
Worsham Forsythe Wooldridge LLP
Energy Plaza 30th Floor
1601 Bryan Street
Dallas, TX 75201-3402

EXAMINER

BARTUSKA, FRANCIS JOHN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 05/14/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

cd

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/580,536

Applicant(s)

MCCASLIN, THOMAS W.

Examiner

F. J. BARTUSKA

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-13, 15, 16 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Harris et al. Harris et al show an automated system and method for matching available equipment to a recipient including an equipment database 32 that includes attributes of the equipment, see col. 6, lines 40-43 and col. 8, lines 1-23, a database manager 33, a database maintenance module that loads the data into the database, an inquiry module 30, an inventory module that updates the data after a match, a transportation module that controls shipping, an installation and removal module that tracks the location history of the equipment, see col. 12, line 63 to col. 13, line 2 and col. 13, lines 30-

38. Periodic searching of the database is disclosed in col. 6, line 36 and col. 11, lines 34-44.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Harris et al. Harris et al receive orders for equipment from requesters 40, 42, 44 at a central inventory location at matching module 30, determination if an order is eligible for allocation is made by prioritizing the orders as disclosed in col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 11, determining if equipment is available is made by checking available inventory 35, the order is allocated when the match is made and the order is filled when the equipment is transferred, see col. 13, lines 30-35.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris et al in view of Ruffolo et al. Harris et al show all the

features of the applicant's claimed invention except the equipment being a transformer. Ruffolo et al disclose an inventory tracking system for transformers, see col. 1, line 22. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the showing and teaching of Ruffolo et al to include transformers in the equipment that is tracked in the system of Harris et al.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris et al in view of Ruffolo et al. Harris et al show all the features of the applicant's claimed invention except the bar code scanner. Ruffolo et al disclose an inventory tracking system including a bar code scanner to enter data, see col. 4, lines 20-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the showing and teaching of Ruffolo et al to provide the system of Harris et al with a bar code scanner to enter data into the database.

Claim Objections

Applicant is advised that should claim 15 be found allowable, claim 16 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or

else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Specification

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

It is noted that figures 32 and 36 are described twice in the Brief Description of the Drawings. Also, an appendix identified as Exhibit A is included but has not been described in the specification. Correction is required.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Collins is cited to show an asset tracking system that includes the location history, see col. 3, lines 17-22.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. J. BARTUSKA whose telephone number is 703-308-1111. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-FRIDAY (ALTERNATE FRIDAYS OFF).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ROBERT P. OLSZEWSKI can be reached on 703-308-5183. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

fjb
May 13, 2002


F. J. BARTUSKA
PRIMARY EXAMINER 5/13/02